

Appl. No. 10/002,882
Amdt. Dated May 19, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2005

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Listing of Claims

Claims 1- 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (new) A method for establishing multi-media conferences involving a plurality of users, each of said users having a client process and at least one of a voice communication media device for audio conferencing and a programmed communication media device for text conferencing, said method comprising the steps of

a user communicating with a conference server to initiate and receive conference participation requests,

a routing server establishing communication media connections to one of said user's communication media devices for participation in a conference, and

said client process associated with said user mixing the communications from a plurality of conference participants for either a multipoint audio media conferencing or multipoint text media conferencing involving said user.

Claim 24 (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said client process runs on a lap top or PC of said user.

Claim 25 (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said client process is distinct from a user communication device.

Claim 26 (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising maintaining presence and availability data for each user for each conference established.

Claim 27 (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising said client process enabling a user to participate simultaneously in one or more conferences and to proactively notify one or more other users of any changes to any of said conferences.

Claim 28 (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of securing communications being sent to said conference, said step of securing including

a security process within said client process obtaining a conference session key from a conference server for each conference between users, and

encrypting said conference key with a second key for communication of said conference session key to a user of said conference.

Claim 29 (new) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of securing communications includes time stamping and encryption of message data, and authentication of said encryption and time-stamp

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sending said time stamp, encryption and authentication of message data to a second user on said conference, and

if said authentication and time stamp data are valid, said client process of said second user decrypting said message data using said conference key.

Claim 30 (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said user has both a voice communication media device and a programmed communication text media device.

Claim 31 (new) The method of claim 30 wherein said user is participating in a conference call involving one of said media devices, said method further comprising said client process establishing a second conference call involving the other of said media devices.

Claim 32 (new) The method of claim 31 wherein said step of establishing said second conference call comprises

said client process requesting a communication controller to create said second conference and

said conference controller using presence and availability information for the prior established conference to invite all the participants in the prior established conference to join said second conference.

Claim 33 (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of a user employing a user interface in said client process to signal a communication controller to create a persistent conference.

Claim 34 (new) The method of claim 33 wherein a conference server retains identification of the persistent conference after users to said persistent conference leave said persistent conference.

Claim 35 (new) A system for establishing multi-media conferences involving a plurality of users, each of said users having at least one of a voice communication media device for audio conferencing and a programmed communication media device for text conferencing, said system comprising

a conference server responsive to a user for initiating and receiving conference participation requests,

a plurality of router servers for establishing communication media connections to one of said user's communication media devices for participation in a conference, and

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a client process associated with said user for mixing the communications from a plurality of conference participants for either a multipoint audio conferencing or a multipoint text processing involving said user.

Claim 36 (new) The system of claim 35 further comprising a PSTN gateway and wherein one of said router servers is a PSTN gateway proxy server that mixes audio streams into a single stream and forwards said single stream to said PSTN gateway.

Claim 37(new) The system of claim 35 wherein another of said router servers is a control unit server which receives audio streams from said PSTN gateway proxy server.

Claim 38 (new) The system of claim 33 wherein one of said routers servers is a smart application server for establishing an application sharing conference.

Claim 39 (new) A system for establishing multi-media conferences involving a plurality of users, each of said users having at least one of a voice communication media device for audio conferencing and a programmed communication media device for text conferencing, said system comprising

a control server tier including a communication controller, an encryption authentication processor, and a presence and availability manager,

a communication server tier including multipoint control user servers,

a data network connecting said control server tier and said communication server tier,

a data base connected to said data network, said database containing presence and availability data with respect to conference users, and

a client process associated with each of said users for mixing the communications from a plurality of said conference users for either an audio conference or a text conference for said each conference user.